

U.S. Application No. 09/747,392, filed December 22, 2000
Amendment dated August 25, 2006
In Response to Office Action of May 26, 2006

REMARKS

As a result of this amendment, only claims 4-7 and 28-51 are pending.

Claims 4-7 were allowed. Newly added claims 28-51 depend indirectly or directly from allowed independent claim 4. It is therefore respectfully submitted that dependent claims 28-51 are in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims 4-7

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 4-7 have been allowed.

Adding New Dependent Claims 28-51

Applicant has added new dependent claims 28-51.

Claims 28-50 depend directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 4. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 28-50 are in condition for allowance.

Support for the new dependent claims can be found, for example, in the specification at page 2, lines 21-25; page 5, lines 1-5 and 14-33; page 6, lines 1-6; page 9, lines 3-12; page 13, lines 15-24; and page 15, lines 3-19 and 27-30.

Cancelled Claims 1-3 and 8-27

Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, claims 1-3 and 20-27. As a result, claims 1-3 and 8-27 have been cancelled, without prejudice, in the present application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the subject matter recited in any of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

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Examiner's Characterizations

Applicant does not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements.

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Excess Claims Fee Calculation

Twenty-eight (28) claims are now pending in the present application. It is believed that there are eight (8) excess claims, resulting in a $8 \times \$50 = \400 excess claims fee.

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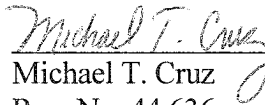
Conclusion

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 4-7 and 28-51 are in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: August 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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